

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/755,982

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Applicant(s)

HASSANIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/3/05 amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-23 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach:

a method for processing a directional property in a display object comprising obtaining an object hierarchy having a root element and one or more child elements, wherein the object hierarchy defines a logical relationship between each object hierarchy element, associating a directional property for the elements in the object hierarchy, generating a set of physical coordinates corresponding to a display screen for each element in the object hierarchy wherein the physical coordinates correspond to the logical relationship between the object hierarchy elements and the directional property associated with each element as recited in claim 1 and a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for processing a directional property comprising a layout component for accepting an object hierarchy having a root element and one or more child elements defined according to a logical relationship, the layout component operable to generate a set of physical coordinates for the object hierarchy corresponding to the logical relationship and a directional property for each elements in the object hierarchy as recited in claim 14.

Although a typical layout manager such as disclosed by Burkett as well as Kellerman et al. allow users to specify content to be displayed after which the layout

manager automatically determines where these elements should go or what coordinates these elements should have, these layout managers fail to anticipate or render a layout manager that has both an object hierarchy *and* a directional property (e.g. flipping or mirroring) and make the above underlined limitations obvious. Moreover, with the directional property, a desktop UI may be displayed with an object hierarchy having root element and child elements specifying that text is to be displayed so that it can be read in a left to right direction for English text, while another desktop UI with an object hierarchy having root element and child elements specifying that text is to be displayed so that it can be read in a right to left direction for Chinese text, i.e. software developers can build one Windows platform and have this software tweak the Windows platform to accommodate various languages (or other layout elements) such that a Windows interface in English can be easily changed to a Windows interface in Chinese so that software developer do not have to build one Windows UI in English and then build a subsequent one in Chinese.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Searle et al. (US 6,778,992 B1) teach a flexible and hierarchical user interfaces defined using a data definition language.

Kellerman et al. (US 6,750,887 B1) teach a GUI layout manager.

Inquires

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LVN
Patent Examiner
March 5, 2006